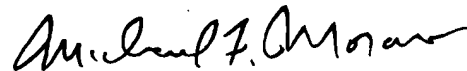


NEW CLAIMS

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 8-10 are patentable over the cited references and respectfully requests that the Examiner allow new claims 8-10. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 8 and 9 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reason of their dependence on claim 5. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest the thicker first portion of the photoresist is positioned over a middle portion of the gate electrode and the thinner second portion of the photoresist is positioned over end portions of the gate electrode and/or over areas adjacent the end portions, as recited in new claims 8-10.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, it is suggested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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